

Message Text

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61

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 RSC-01 /051 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB:VTOMSETH:AVW

APPROVED BY EA:RLSNEIDER

EA/TB:JBDEXTER

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R 112142Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

S E C R E T STATE 201961

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MARR, TH

SUBJECT: TENURE OF US SPECIAL FORCES IN THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 15666

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT JCS ASKED CINCPAC INTER ALIA FOR RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FUTURE DISPOSITION OF US SPECIAL FORCES (SF) NOW IN THAILAND AND THAT CINCPAC REPLIED INFORMALLY THAT IT WOULD LIKE TO SEE NUMBERS REDUCED BY AT LEAST ONE THIRD. JCS IS INCLINED TO GO ALONG WITH THIS RECOMMENDATION. HOWEVER, ARMY STRONGLY OPPOSED TO REDUCTION SINCE SF HAVE FEW OVERSEAS BILLETS, ESPECIALLY IN ENVIRONMENTS SIMILAR TO THAT FOUND IN SEA, AND THUS ANXIOUS TO KEEP WHAT THEY HAVE.

2. WE SUPPORT MISSION POSITION ON SF IN THAILAND AND WILL GIVE IT FULL BACKING HERE PROVIDED THAT REMOVAL FROM THAILAND WOULD BE A NET REDUCTION IN SF IN EA AND WOULD NOT RESULT IN TRANSFER TO EVEN LESS DESIRABLE PLACES IN REGION. AS NOTED ABOVE DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT IS NOT UNIFORMLY AGAINST IT. THEREFORE WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL TO HAVE POINTS MADE IN REFTEL, PARTICULARLY THAT ON LIKELY RTG ATTITUDE TO RESIDUAL SF PRESENCE, ON THE RECORD. SUGGEST SECRET

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YOU SANITIZE REFTEL AND SEND IT IN FOR REGULAR DISTRIBUTION

FYI: DEPUTY POLAD CINCPAC INFORMED DESK LAST WEEK THAT
CINCPAC IS PLANNING TO EXAMINE MACTHAI/JUSMAG STAFFING PAT-
TERN DURING AN INSPECTION WHICH WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE IN
4-6 WEEKS. WE BELIEVE TEAM WOULD BE OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS
FROM YOU RE SF. END FYI. KISSINGER

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NNN

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